

8201 Oakleigh Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
December 24, 1988

Dear Mom & Dad,

It is a dark, showery day but not too cold. We are starting to get lined up for the trip to London. The plane leaves tomorrow at 7 PM and arrives in London at 7 AM - a seven hour flight non-stop from Baltimore to Gatwick. Several weeks ago I wrote to our usual hotel near Hyde Park for a reservation but I haven't heard back from them yet. I will call from the airport or Victoria Station. It won't be hard to get a hotel at this time of year in any case. We arrive on Boxing Day which is a national holiday and many places will be closed. We don't mind, however, as shopping is not in our plans and simply walking about will offer plenty of enjoyment. Certainly there will be some pubs open and since the licensing hour restrictions have been abolished we can have a pint of bitter any time!

I called my contact at the Institute for Defense Analyses to check on the status of my job offer. The review committee unanimously recommended I be made an offer and the next step is for the management to get approval for my salary, which exceeds the Civil Service limit, and write me a letter. All such matters take longer during the holidays but I hope to begin the new job about the 1st of February.

Thanks again for the Christmas presents and have a good time during the week. We will be thinking about you during our vacation. We get home New Year's afternoon and, being Sunday, the next day is a holiday which will give me some time to recover before heading back to the office. Please say Merry Christmas to Mary, Mike, and Diane for us. We plan to visit you for a week next summer and hope Mary can get tickets for the Wagner opera scheduled for August. I will get in touch with her soon.

Love,

Jim & Vickie